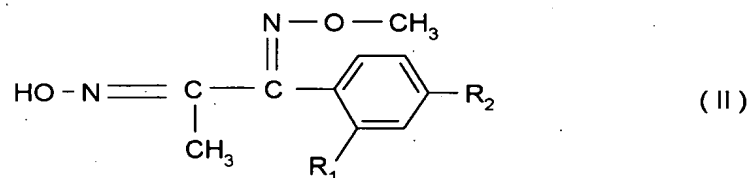


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A process for preparing ~~[the oximes]~~ an oxime of formula II



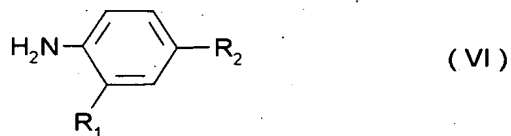
wherein

R₁ is hydrogen, fluoro or chloro, and

R₂ is methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro or bromo,

~~[which process comprises]~~ comprising

(a) diazotizing an aniline of formula VI



wherein R1 and R2 are as defined for formula II,

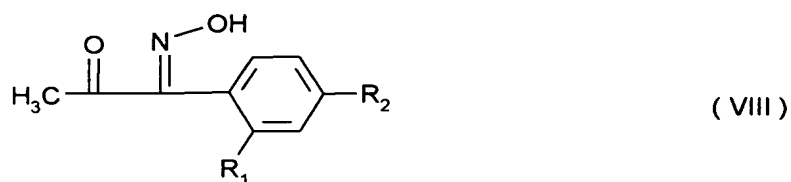
[and]

(b) reacting the resulting diazonium salt with methylglyoxal-1-oxime of formula VII



[and]

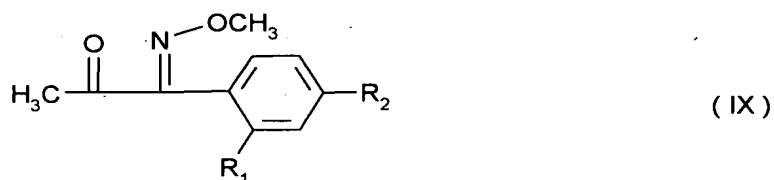
(c) methylating the resulting ketooxime of formula VIII



wherein R1 and R2 are as defined for formula II,

with [an] a methylating agent, and

(d) reacting the resulting O-methyl ketooxime of formula IX



with hydroxylamine.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A compound of formula II obtained by the process of ~~[any one of claims 1-]~~ Claim 3 ~~[or 4]~~.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (new): A process according to Claim 3 wherein

- (1) when R₁ is H, then R₂ is Cl, F, Br, CN, CH₃, OCH₃, C₂H₅, CF₃, or OC₂H₅; and
- (2) when R₁ is F or Cl, then R₂ is H, Cl, or F.